

## Taj Exotica Resort & Spa Maldives Experience royalty in a turquoise paradise

nce the 1970's, the Maldives has become synonymous with exclusive luxury travel. The island nation's vibrant tourism sector accounts for 40% of the archipelago's economy, with its postcardperfect tropical beaches and rich marine life being the main draws. As the lowest-lying nation in the world - sitting at just a few feet above sea level - the Maldives' natural tropical beauty is being threatened by the world's climate crisis. To safeguard the gorgeous scenery so that the future generations can experience its abundant beauty, many of the nation's luxe resorts are 'going green' to minimise their environmental footprint - such as through clean energy and self-reliant recycling infrastructure - which will have a net positive impact on the Maldivian ecosystem.

Taj Exotica Resort & Spa is a truly special way to experience everything the Maldives has to offer. Having pioneered the Maldivian luxury beach holiday at the turn of the millennium, Taj Exotica, spread across the Emboodhu Finolhu island has provided unforgettable experiences to families, couples, and solo travellers. The resort is managed by The Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL), Asia's largest hospitality company which brings Taj - its iconic brand which has been ranked as the World's Strongest Hotel Brand and India's Strongest Brand as per Brand Finance Hotels to the discerning travellers. The coveted hospitality brand has more than 119 years of excellence in the industry and counts the likes of New York, London, and Cape Town amongstits award-winning global destinations.

At Taj Exotica, the brand's unrivalled history in guest satisfaction becomes transparent as the resort follows the brand's unique philosophy of 'Tajness' - a deeply cultural concept of personalised luxury where the guest is treated like royalty. "Our guests come back to stay with us for that personal touch. My team and I firmly believe and truly live by it," says Samrat Datta, Area Director



and General Manager of Taj Exotica Resort. Over the year, Taj Exotica has refined the idea of a tropical paradise, with the resort now a symbol of understated, subtle, luxury. Every villa is offered butler service and the resort's highly talented staff ensure each quest is pampered and receives individual attention. Naturally, the resort sees many return guests and has shared some wonderful stories of newly wed couples who came to hotel for their honeymoon, coming back with their kids year on year, several times around! Taj Exotica provides an incredibly intimate family atmosphere, with lots of nostalgia tied up in the resort. "Some of our staff have been here for more than 20 years and consider Taj their home. They've become friends of the families and have watched their kids grow up," says Samrat.

Taj Exotica offers an impressive array of island activities, like traditional Maldivian cookery classes and mocktail making for kids. Guests can also try their hand at a variety of water sports. The resort is surrounded by one of the largest lagoons in the Maldives which is almost half a kilometre out, making it one of the safest and most beautiful places in the world to become a confident snorkeller, jet skier, kayaker, or even parasailer. Alternatively, guests can take a romantic sunset cruise and experience the magical sunset that Maldives offers, followed by a seaplane tour of the island, and finally rejuvenate at the world-renowned Jiva spa.

Taj Exotica also offers a wide variety of rooms with 64 luxurious villas and suites to choose from - from an ocean or beach suite to an overwater or lagoon villa. Guests can have a spa treatment room, a private beach, or even a tropical outdoor shower in their own walled garden if they so choose. Above all, Taj Exotica does tropical island dining like no other. From the delicious Japanese teppanyaki served at 24 Degrees, to a candlelight alfresco dining inspired by Mediterranean and North African flavours in The Deep End, all this paired with the finest wines in the world - Taj Exotica has fast-become the island nation's foremost culinary hotspot. "We can serve you the world on the plate, all with the freshest ingredients," says Datta.

In addition to its luxury appeal, Taj Exotica deeply understands the importance of sustainability. The resort is Earth Check Certified and Platinum Certified for its environmental commitments, they safeguard the island's tropical ecosystem by sourcing all its water from the surrounding ocean, removing single-use plastics, and operating an on-site bottling plant. Taj Exotica encourages its guests to do the same. The flora walks on the island are an excellent opportunity for staff to share how the guests can help and enhance the Maldivian ecosystem with the opportunity to sponsor coral plants. Whilst truly making an environmental difference, coral sponsorships have become a great way for the resort to keep in touch with guests through updates, pictures, and return stays.